

LOCAL
CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES ON
THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND ITS MAJOR TRIBUTARIES

Compiled by
San Joaquin River Management Program Work Group
April 5, 1990

San Joaquin River Flood Control Association

The Clearing and Snagging Program is on hold awaiting USCE decisions and actions. No treatment is planned for the Friant to Gravelly Ford reach of San Joaquin River. The Reclamation Board will proceed with the program on the North Fork Kings and Middle Rivers with appropriated funds.

Mendota Pool to Old River is experiencing serious accretion of sediments, which is raising the elevation of the San Joaquin River bottom. Some corrective action is needed, possibly having USCE construct shallow sediment pools. The material could then be dredged and sold to commercial interests.

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San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust submitted the San Joaquin River Parkway Conceptual Plan to 35 agencies for consideration for inclusion in their general plans.

The Trust will be submitting a grant proposal for urban streams funds for review of bank erosion and flood control alternatives on the San Joaquin River.

A trail is proposed by State Parks and Recreation from Lost Lake to Millerton. Recreation development is proposed for Lost Lake Park, including volleyball courts.

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Santina Water Company

The Santina Water Company is proposing several cogeneration plants in the San Joaquin Valley which will treat and use agricultural tile drain in power generation. The proposed facility near Mendota will treat and use 2,000 to 3,000 acre-feet of drain water from the Firebaugh Canal Company and Central California Irrigation District, thereby eliminating this discharge from entering Salt Slough. The project is currently privately funded and is expected to be operational in three years.

Westlands Water District

The Westlands Water District is investigating the possibility of using agroforestry as a means to decrease the volume of agricultural drain water. Currently the program is on hold until other alternatives are considered, such as piping drain water to upslope trees.

Madera Irrigation District

Madera Irrigation District has looked into the possibility of sending San Joaquin River flows down the river, rather than down Madera Canal, to be pumped out of the river downstream within its service area. This method of transporting water would increase flows in the river and benefit fish and wildlife. Madera ID has stated that it will proceed with this plan only if another agency is willing to fund the improvements (i.e. pumps and power).

Madera ID is in the early stages of planning a pump-storage project on the Fine Gold Creek arm of Millerton Reservoir. The reservoir would have approximately 300,000 acre-feet of capacity. Water would be stored in surplus water years and released in dry years. The project is economically feasible on the basis of power production.